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(54) **LOW RADIAL PROFILE NEEDLE SAFETY DEVICE**

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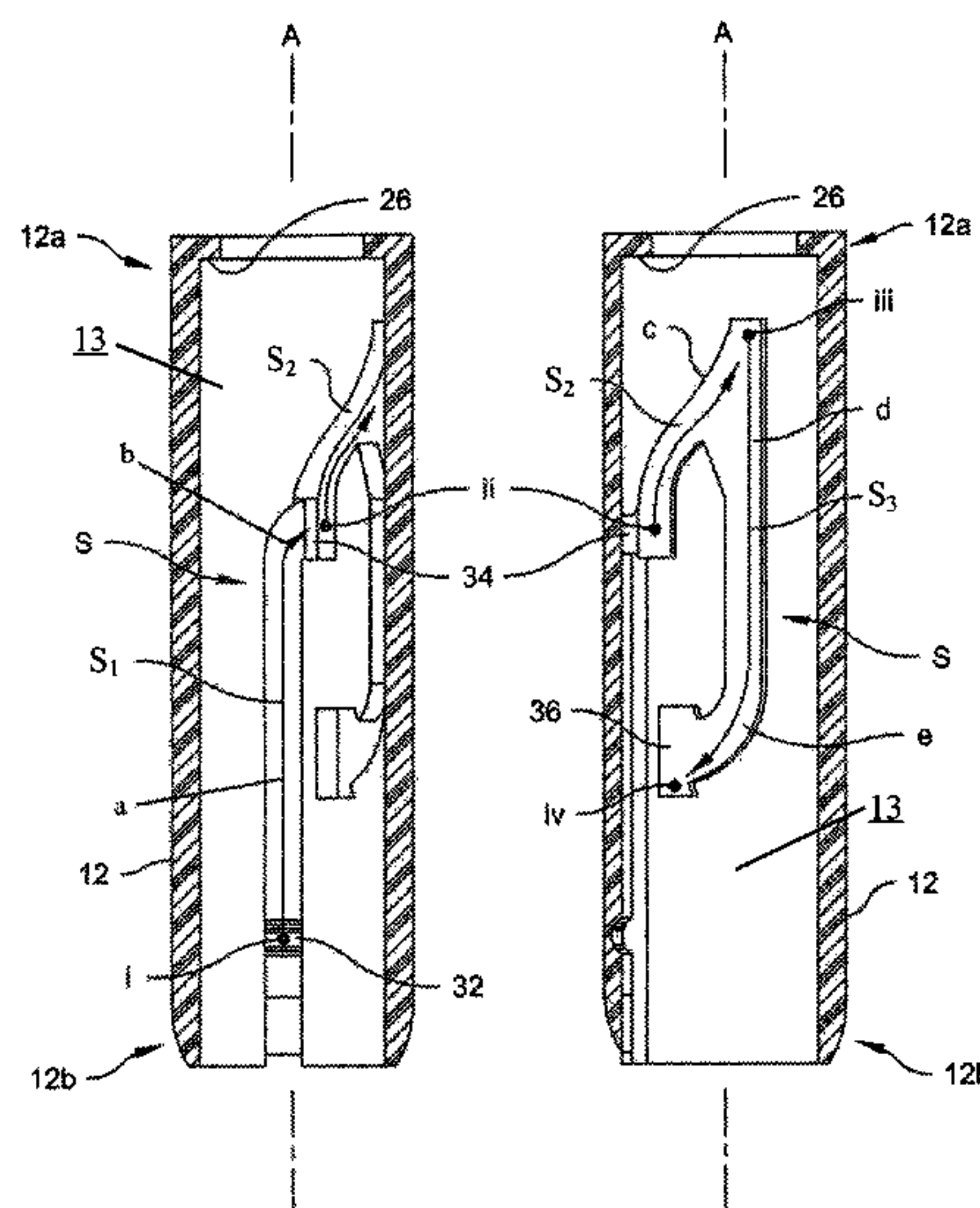
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A needle safety device has an outer tube within which a  
syringe barrel is slideably receivable. A collar in the outer  
tube is moveable relative thereto and rotatably attachable to  
the distal end of the barrel. A force member biases the outer  
tube in a distal direction. A track is formed in the inner  
surface of the outer tube. A pin extending radially outwardly  
from the collar slidingly engages the track. In a staging  
position, the barrel is inspectable. In a pre-injection position,  
the cannula extends a first length beyond the outer tube. In  
a full-insertion position, the cannula extends a second length  
greater than the first length beyond the outer tube. In a  
locked position, the cannula is entirely within the outer tube.

**12 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets**



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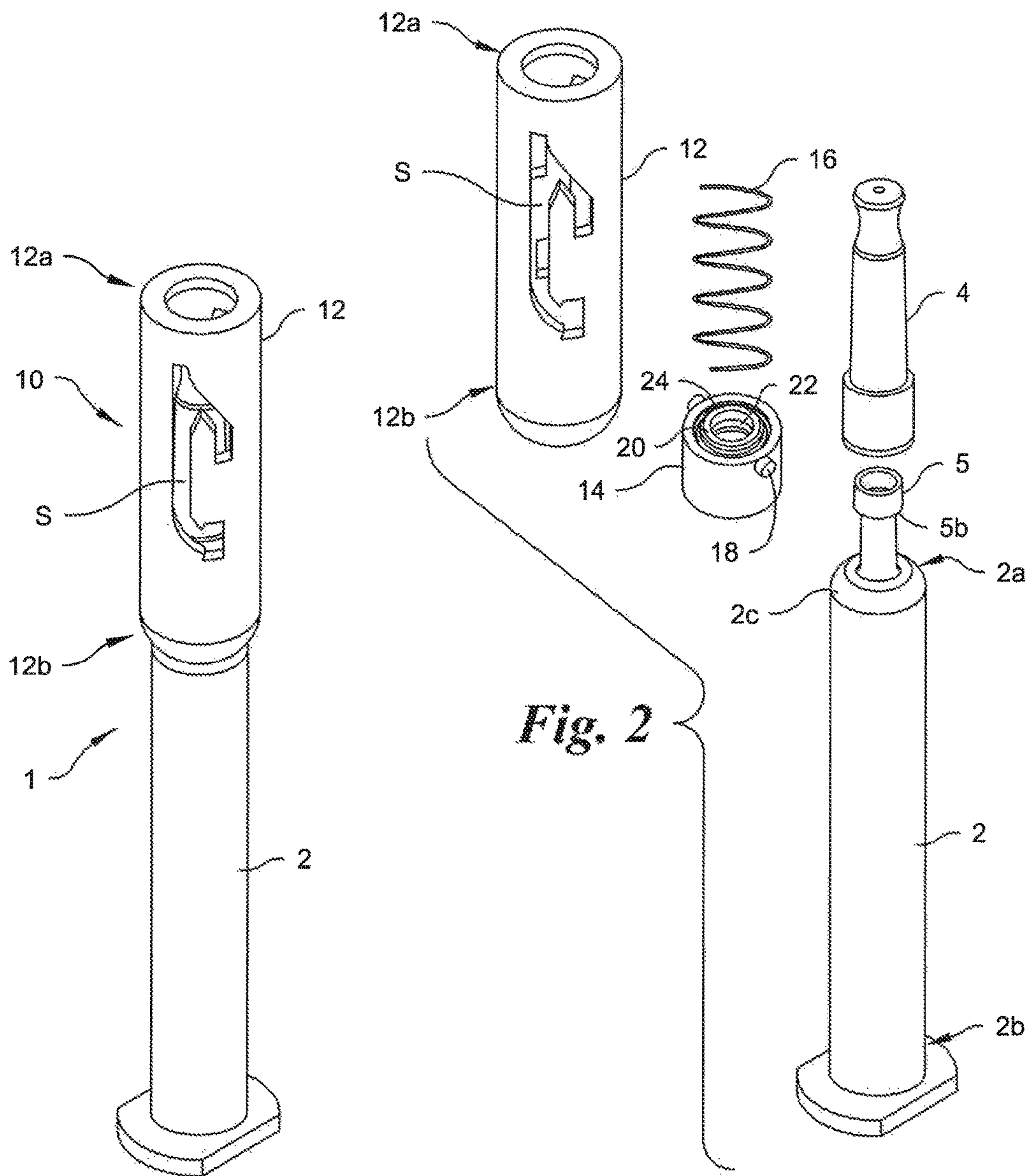
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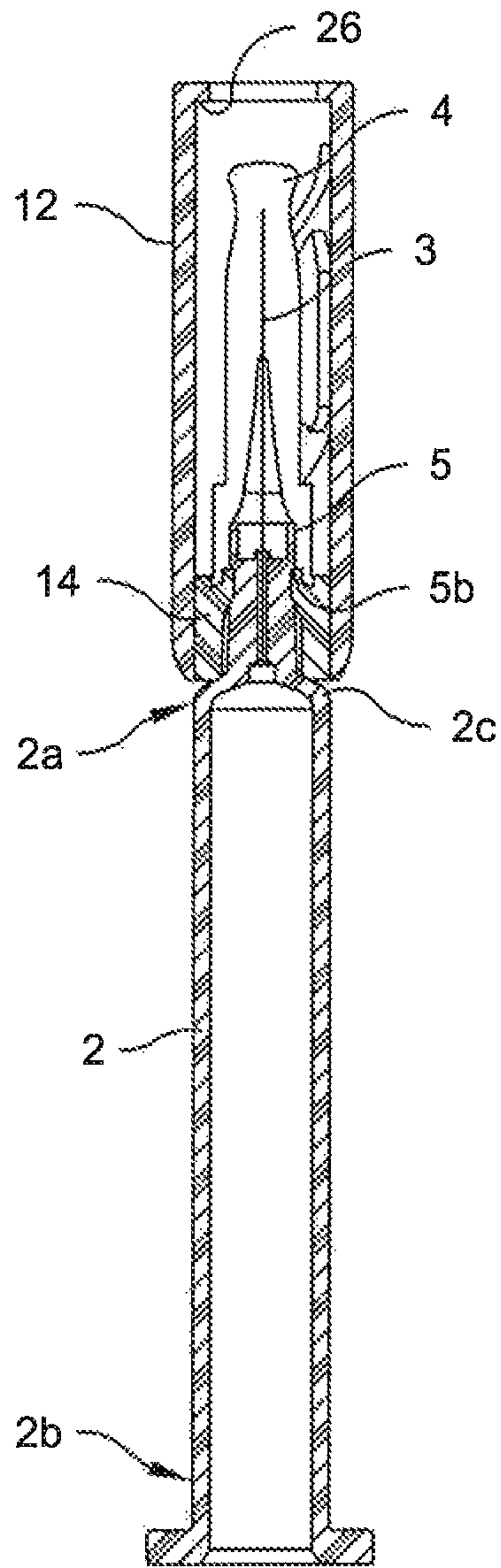
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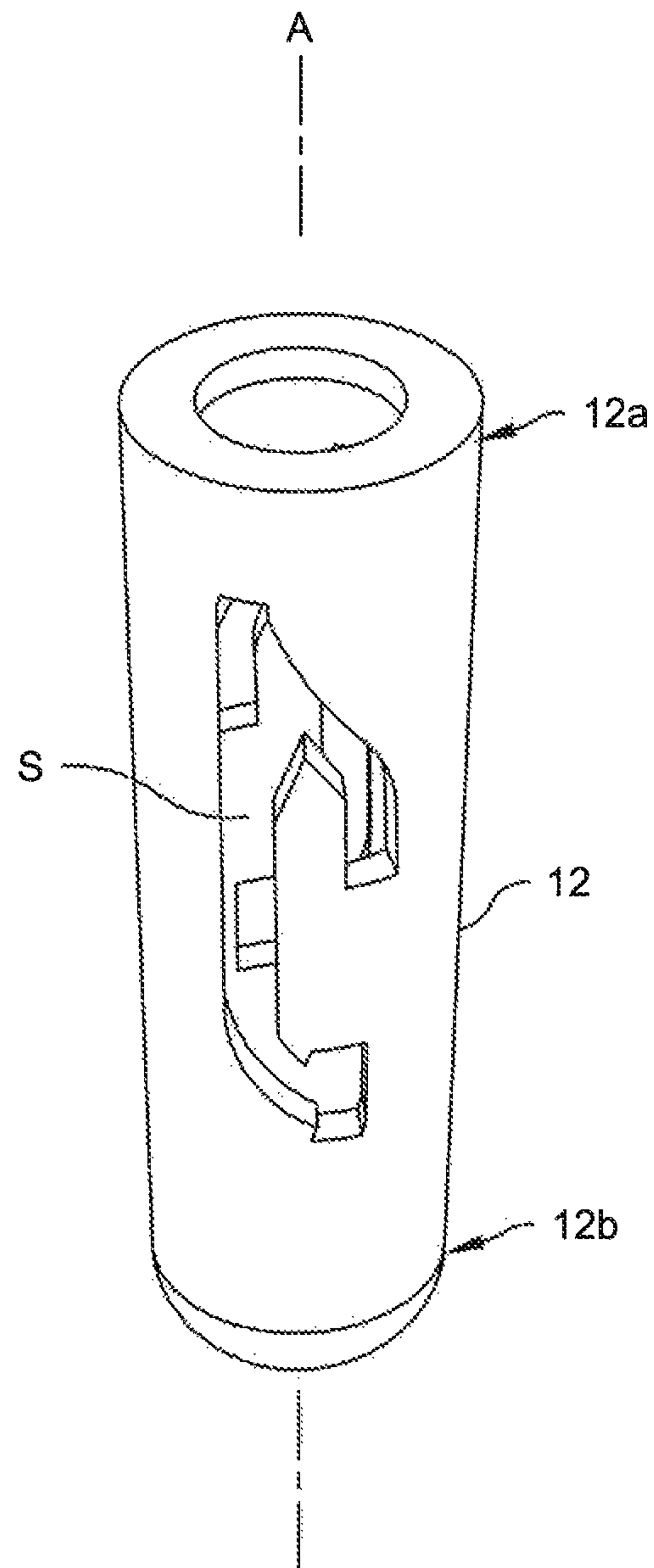


**Fig. 1**

**Fig. 2**



*Fig. 3*



*Fig. 4*

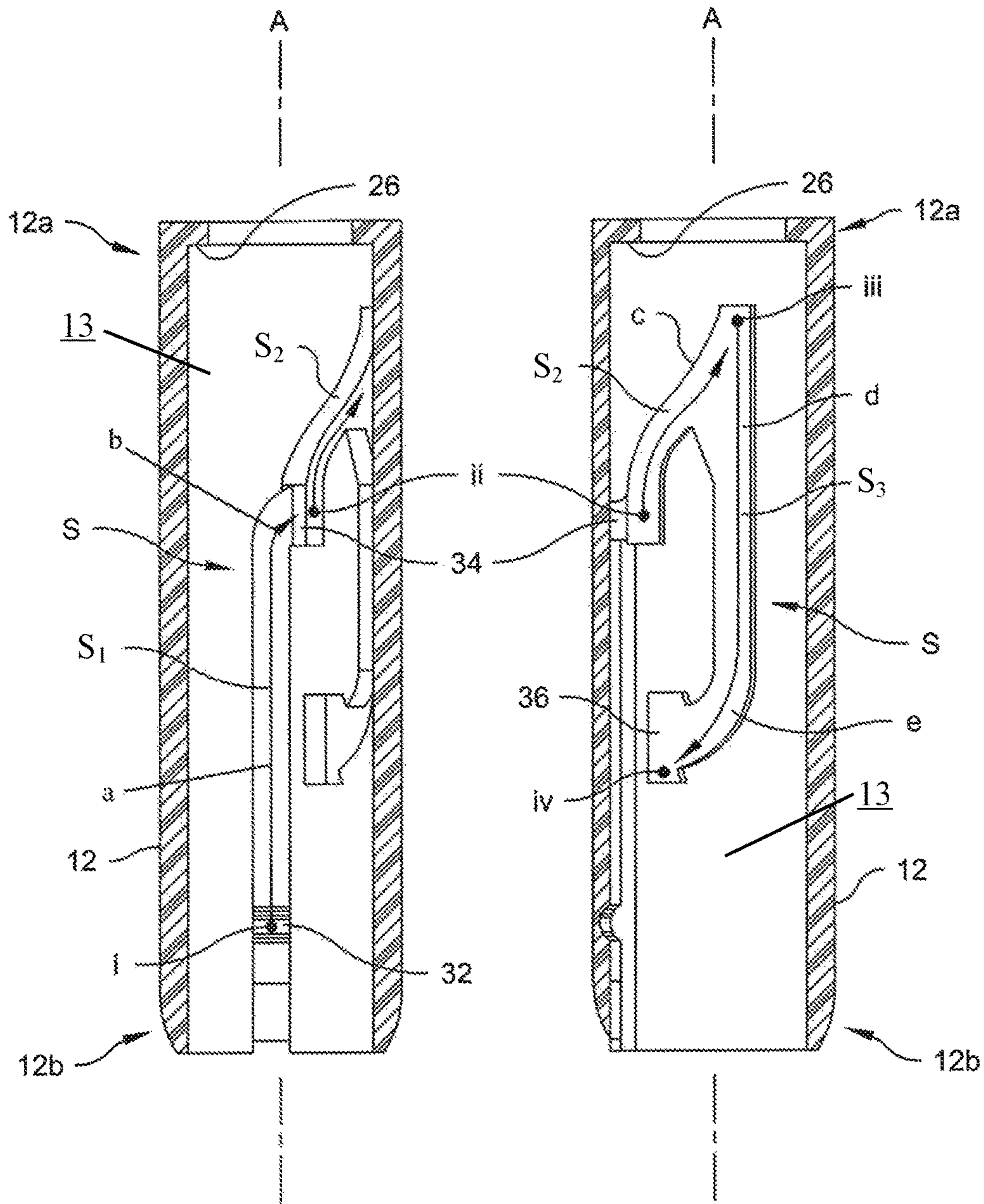
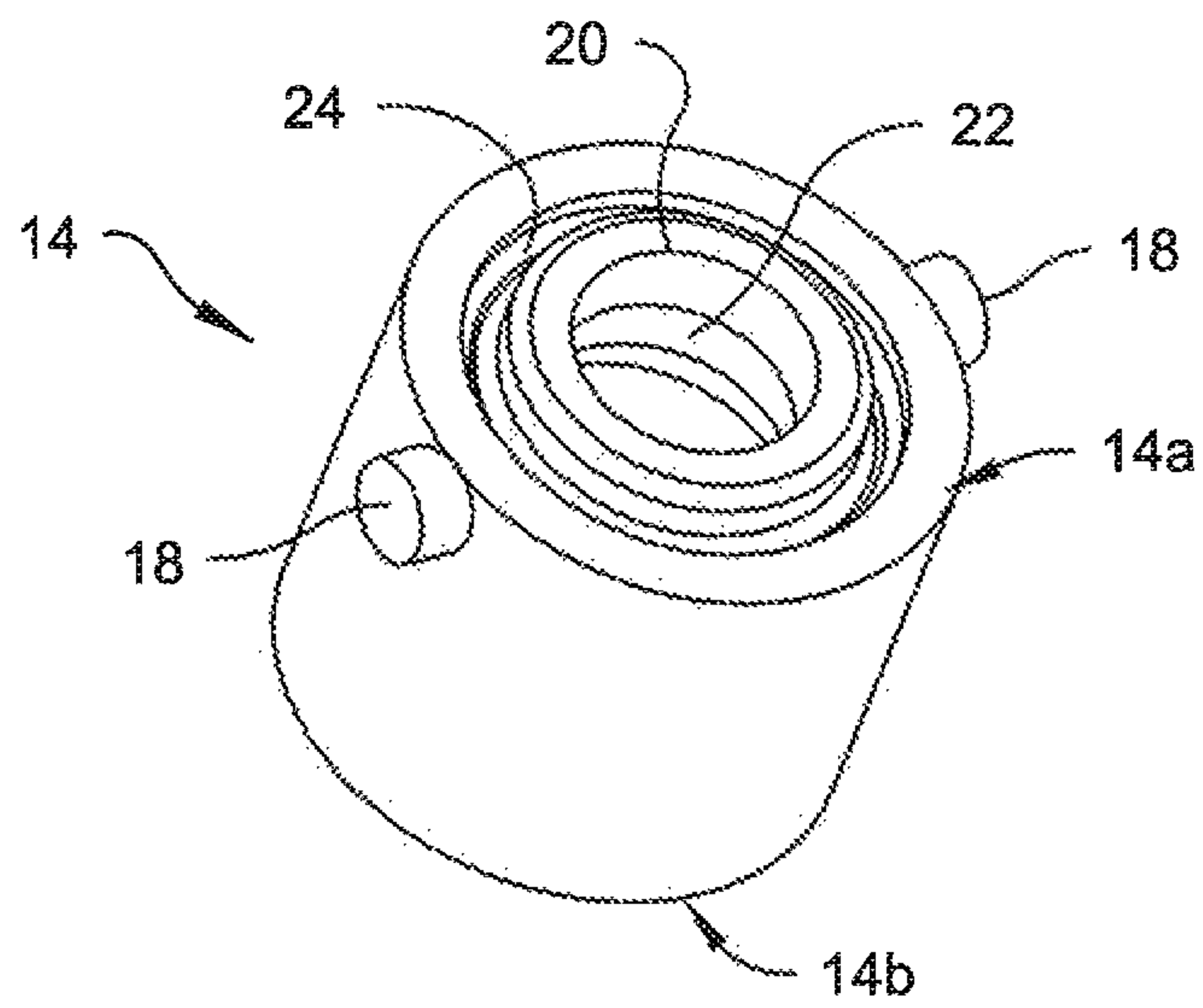


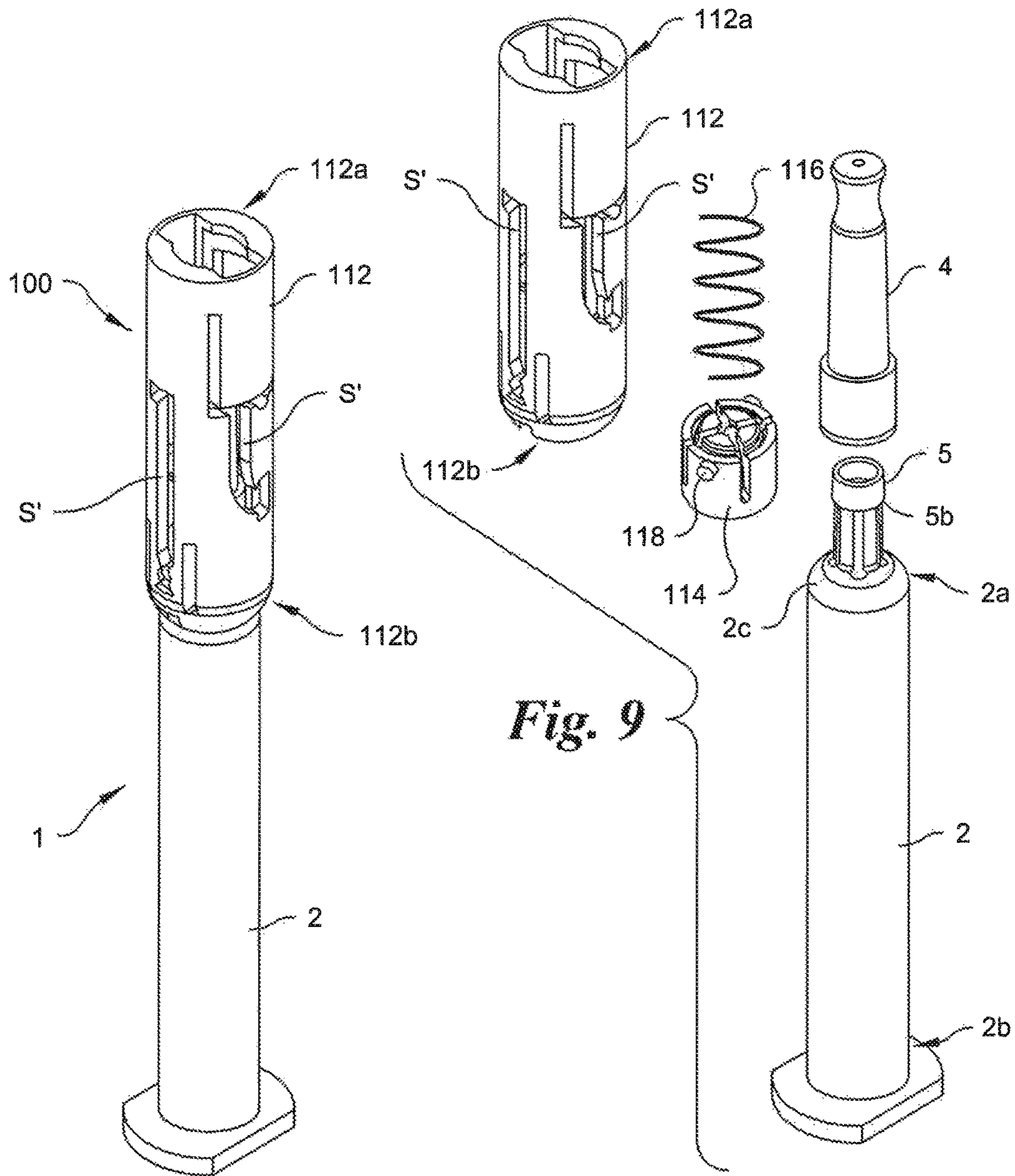
Fig. 5

Fig. 6



*Fig. 7*

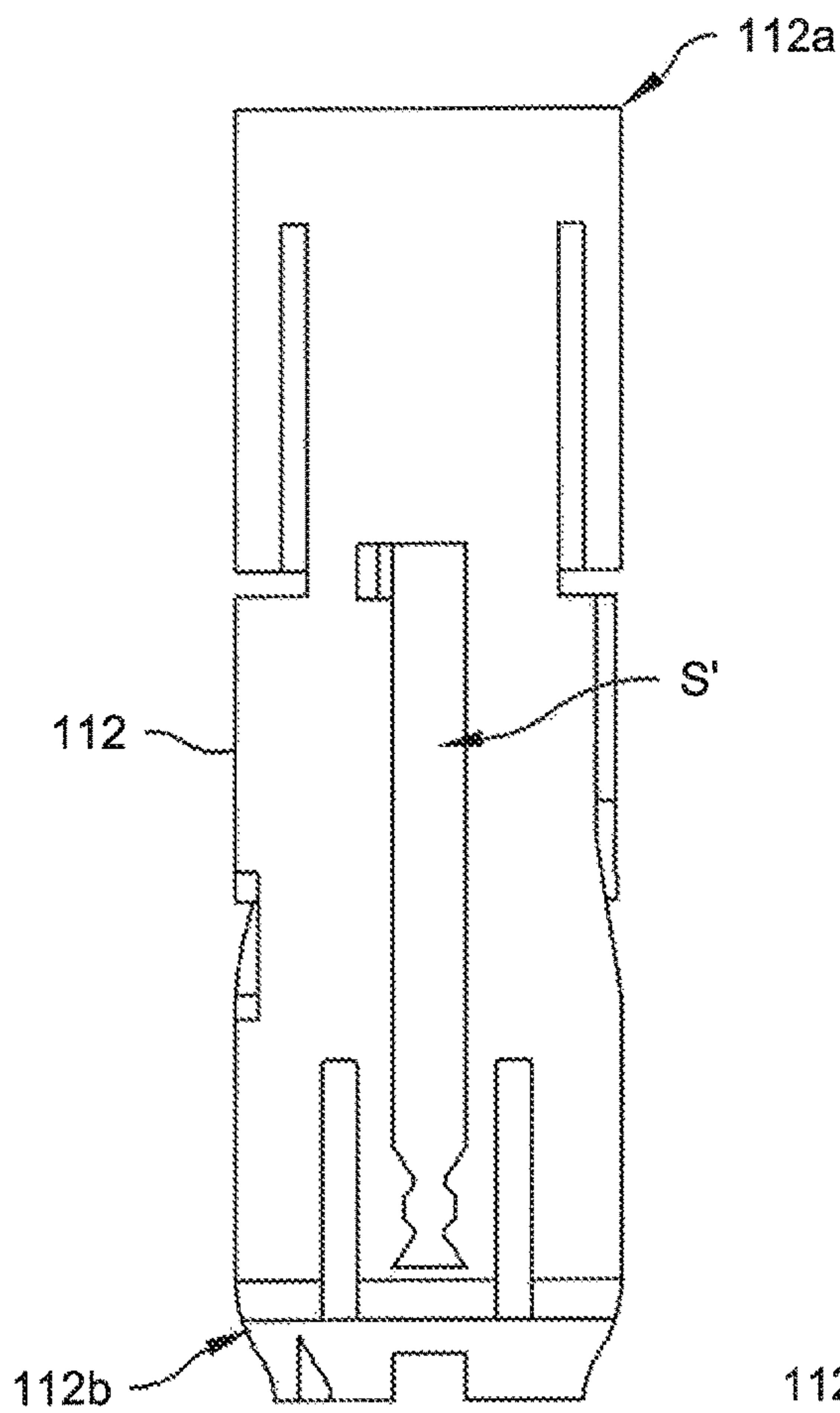




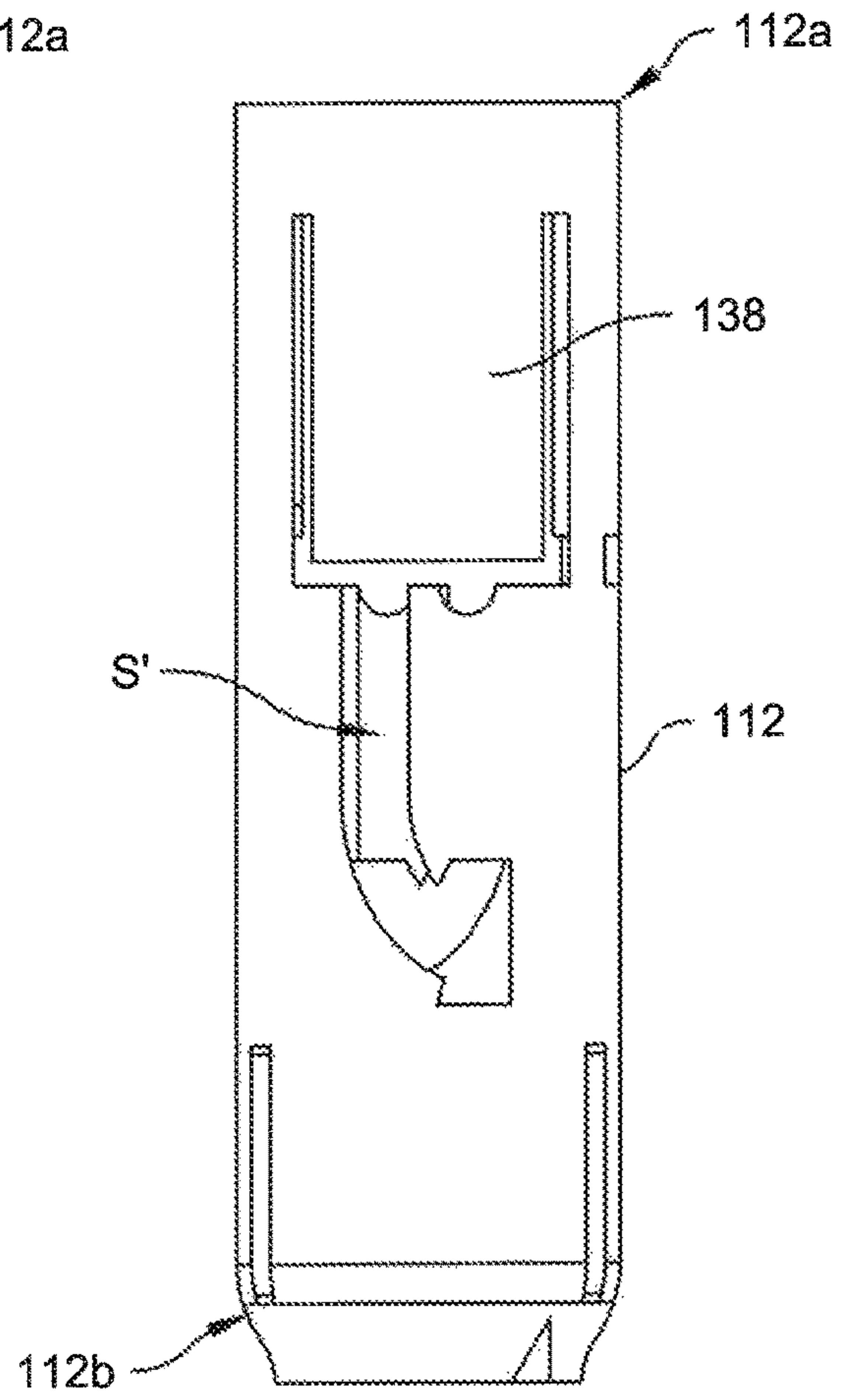
**Fig. 8**

**Fig. 9**

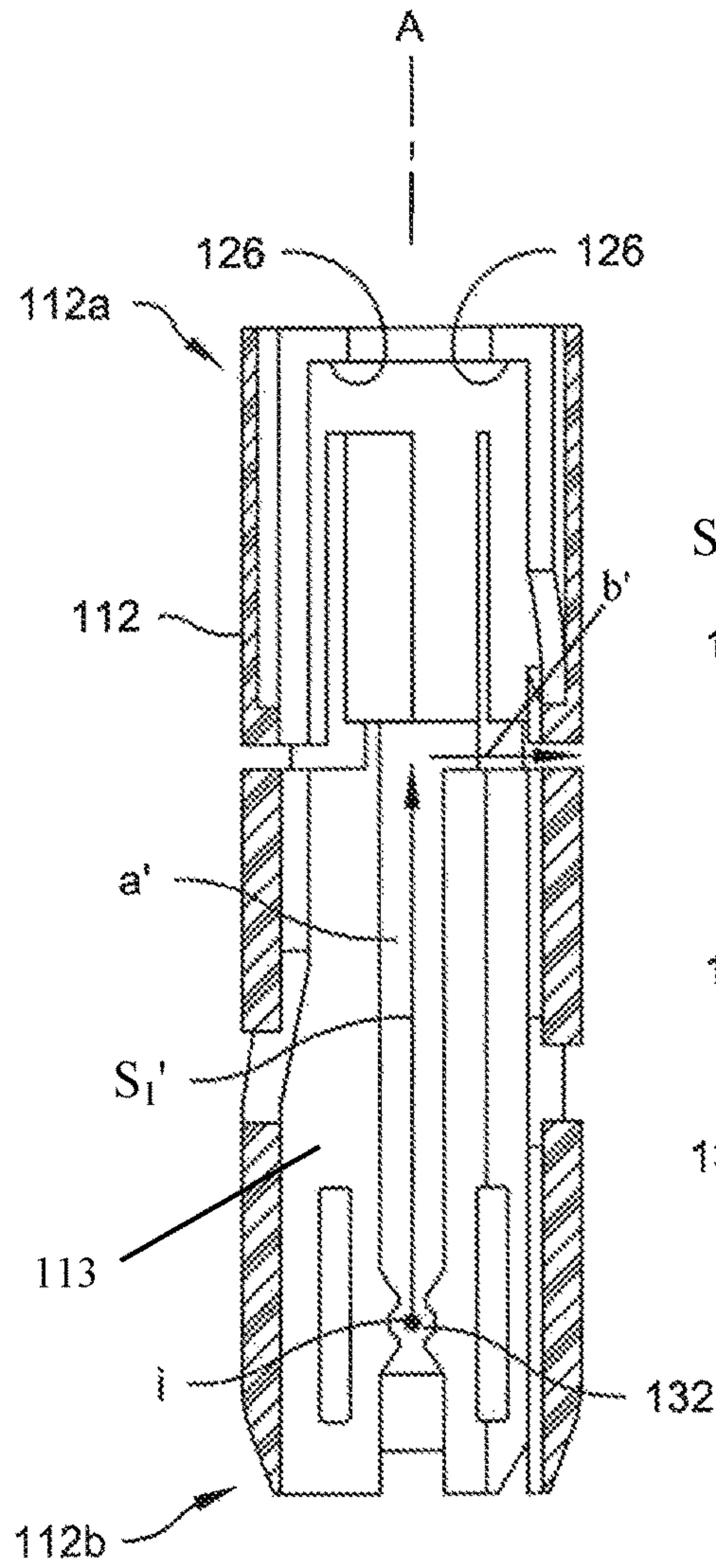




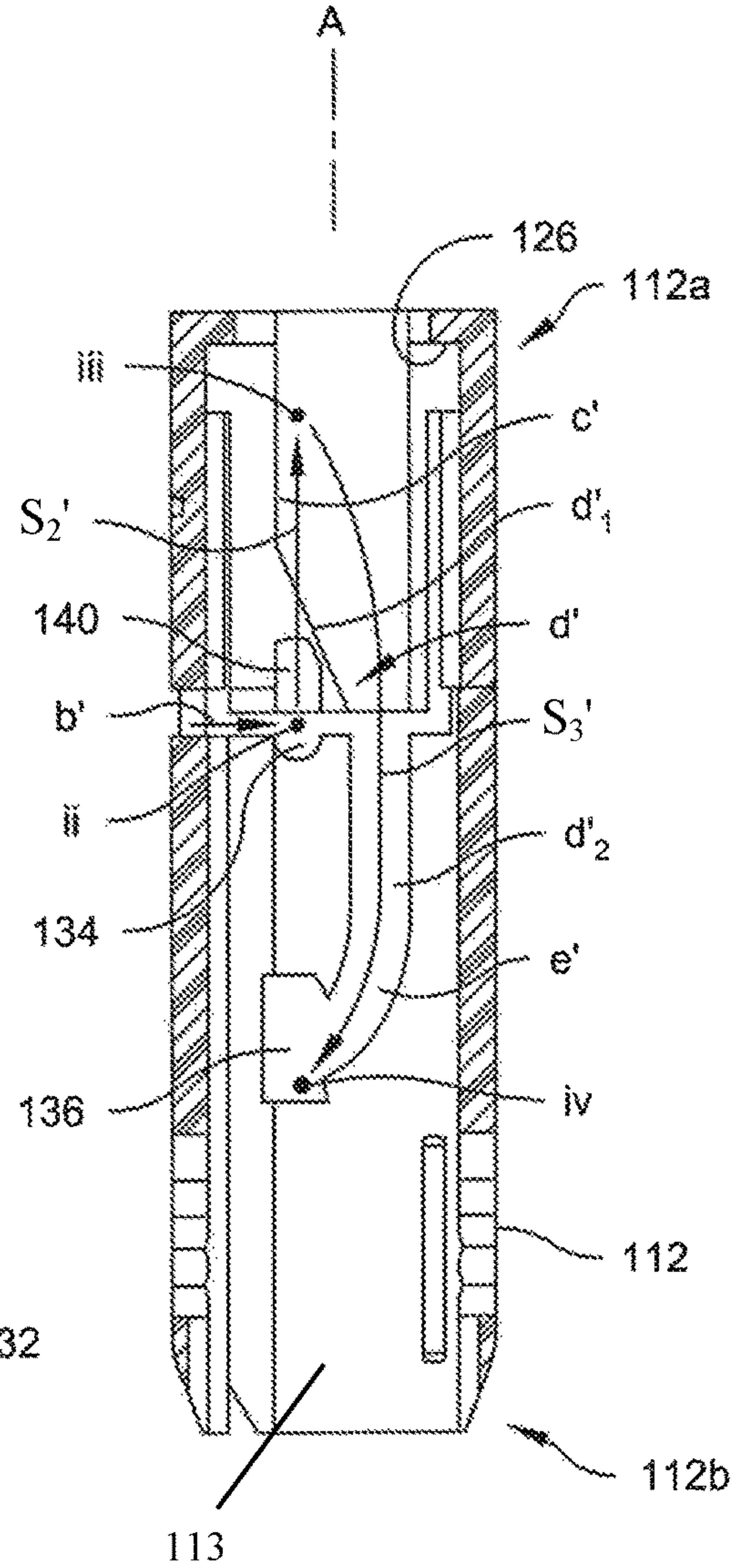
*Fig. 10*



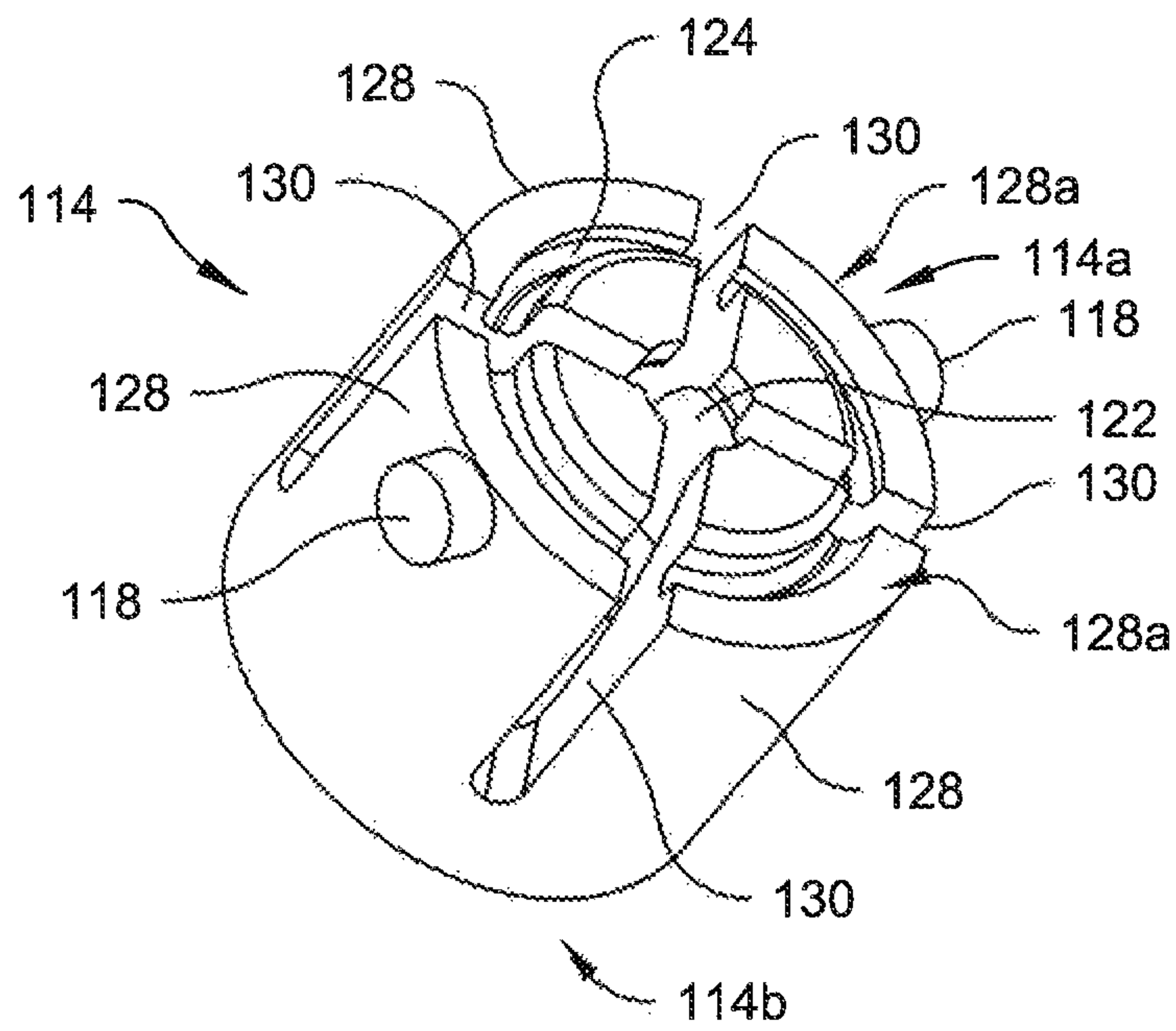
*Fig. 11*



*Fig. 12*

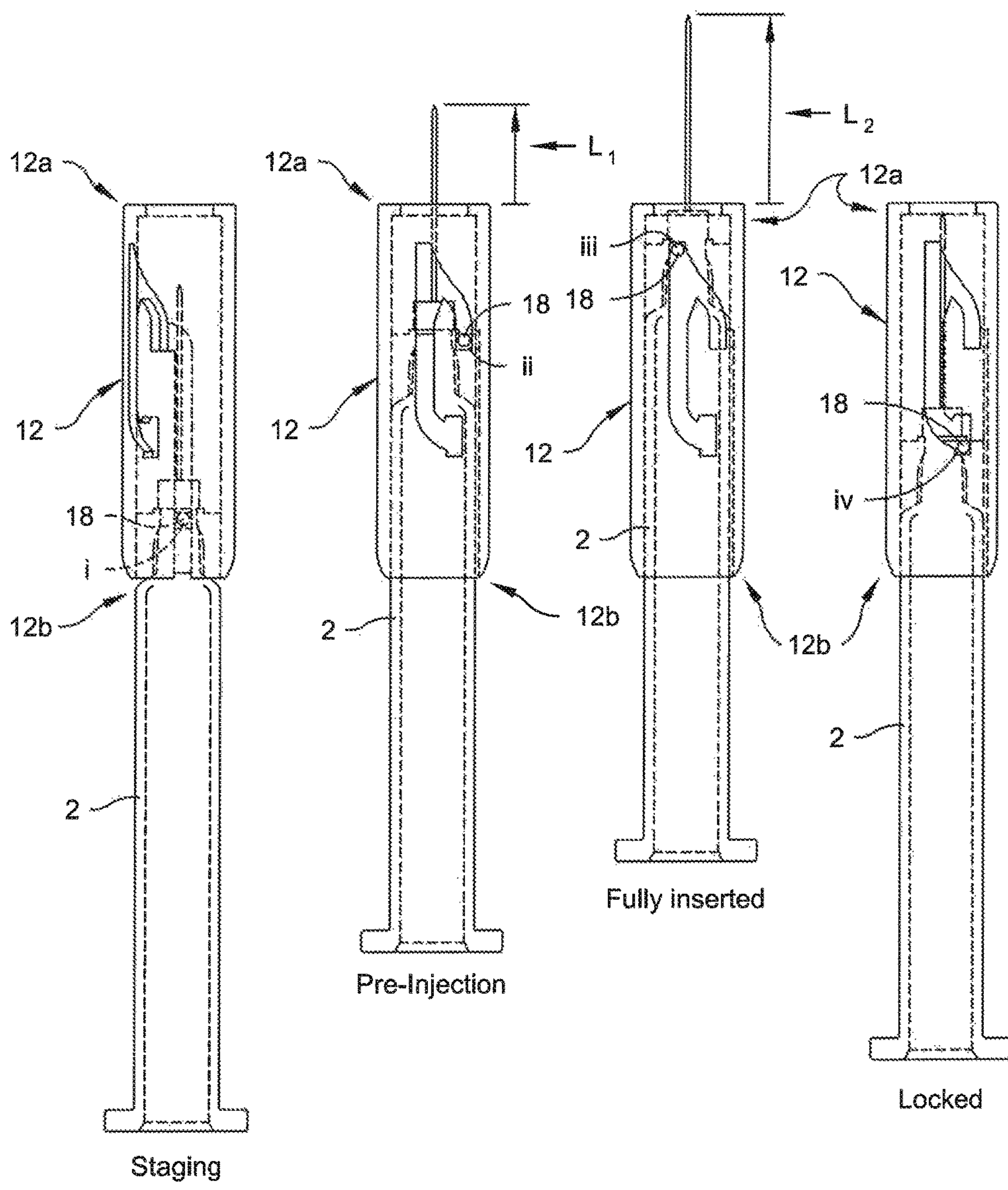


*Fig. 13*



*Fig. 14*





*Fig. 15A Fig. 15B Fig. 15C Fig. 15D*



## LOW RADIAL PROFILE NEEDLE SAFETY DEVICE

### CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This Application is a Division of application Ser. No. 14/383,364 filed on Sep. 5, 2014, which is a 371 of International Application PCT/US13/29518, filed Mar. 7, 2013, which was published in the English language on Sep. 12, 2013 under International Publication No. WO 2013/134465 A1, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application 61/607,711 filed on Mar. 7, 2012, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a low radial profile needle safety shield for syringes, in general, and for pharmaceutical syringes in particular.

Needlestick injuries are a well known occupational hazard for healthcare workers. Unintended needlesticks have the potential for transmitting blood-borne viruses such as hepatitis B and C and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to the recipient. After a needlestick injury, certain procedures must be followed to minimize the risk of infection for the recipient, such as laboratory blood tests and post-exposure prophylaxis started immediately after exposure to a pathogen, such as one of the aforementioned viruses, in order to prevent infection by the pathogen and the development of the associated disease.

Conventional safety devices intended to reduce the frequency of post-injection needlesticks typically have a sheath partially or completely surrounding the pharmaceutical syringe. The sheath may be held in a retracted position exposing the needle for aspiration and injection and may be automatically deployed around a needle afterwards.

Among the drawbacks of many conventional prior art needle safety devices is that they are not compatible with current accepted practice due to sizes and configurations that are incompatible with conventional filling and sterilization equipment and methods.

Accordingly, there is a need in the art for a safety injection device having a low radial profile.

### BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Briefly stated, one aspect of the invention is a needle safety device for an injection device having a generally cylindrical barrel with a distal end from which a cannula extends. The needle safety device comprises an outer tube within which the barrel is slideably receivable. The outer tube has a distal end, a proximal end spaced from the distal end and a longitudinal axis. A collar in the outer tube is moveable relative thereto and is rotatably attachable to the distal end of the barrel. A force member is between the outer tube and the collar and biases the outer tube in a distal direction. A track S is formed in the inner surface of the outer tube. A pin extending radially outwardly from the collar slidingly engages the track S. The track S comprises a first track segment extending from a staging position to a pre-injection position. The proximal end of the outer tube is in a position relative to the distal end of the barrel allowing the barrel to be inspected when the collar is attached to the distal end of the barrel and the pin is releaseably retained in the staging position by a first catch in the outer tube. The cannula extends a first length beyond the distal end of the

outer tube when the collar is attached to the distal end of the barrel and the pin is releaseably retained in the pre-injection position by a second catch in the outer tube. A second track segment contiguous with the first track segment extends from the pre-injection position to a full-insertion position. The cannula extends a second length greater than the first length from the distal end of the outer tube when the collar is attached to the distal end of the barrel and the pin is in the full-insertion position. A third track segment contiguous with the second track segment extends from the full-insertion position to a locked position in which the pin is immovably retainable in a portion of the third track segment spaced from and parallel to a portion of the first track segment. The cannula is entirely within the outer tube when the collar is attached to the distal end of the barrel and the pin is immovably retained in the locked position by a third catch in the outer tube.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing summary, as well as the following detailed description of preferred embodiments of the invention, will be better understood when read in conjunction with the appended drawings. For the purpose of illustrating the invention, there is shown in the drawings embodiments which are presently preferred. It should be understood, however, that the invention is not limited to the precise arrangements and instrumentalities shown.

In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a side perspective view of an embodiment of the low radial-profile needle safety device in a staging position on the barrel of a pharmaceutical injection device in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded side perspective view of the needle safety device of FIG. 1,

FIG. 3 is an side cross-sectional view of the safety device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is a side perspective view of the outer tube of the safety device of FIG. 1;

FIGS. 5 and 6 are side cross-sectional views of the outer tube of the safety device of FIG. 1 showing the track in the outer tube;

FIG. 7 is a top perspective view of the collar of the safety device of FIG. 1;

FIG. 8 is a side perspective view of another embodiment of the low radial-profile needle safety device in a staging position on the barrel of a pharmaceutical injection device in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 9 is an exploded side perspective view of the needle safety device of FIG. 8,

FIG. 10 is an side cross-sectional view of the safety device of FIG. 8;

FIG. 11 is a front elevation view of the outer tube of the safety device of FIG. 8;

FIG. 12 is a right side elevation view of the outer tube of the safety device of FIG. 8;

FIG. 13 is a side cross-sectional view of the outer tube of the safety device of FIG. 8;

FIG. 14 is a top plan view of the collar of FIG. 8; and

FIGS. 15A-15D is a sequence of side elevation views of the safety device and a portion of a pharmaceutical syringe of FIG. 1 showing progressive positions of the safety device relative to the pharmaceutical insertion device.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Reference will now be made in detail to embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the



accompanying drawings. The terminology used in the description of the invention herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the invention.

As used in the description of the invention and the appended claims, the singular forms “a”, “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. The words “and/or” as used herein refers to and encompasses any and all possible combinations of one or more of the associated listed items. The words “comprises” and/or “comprising,” when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

The words “right,” “left,” “lower” and “upper” designate directions in the drawings to which reference is made. The words “inwardly” and “outwardly” refer to directions toward and away from, respectively, the geometric center of the needle safety shield, and designated parts thereof. The terminology includes the words noted above, derivatives thereof and words of similar import.

Although the words first, second, etc., are used herein to describe various elements, these elements should not be limited by these words. These words are only used to distinguish one element from another. For example, a first segment could be termed a second segment, and, similarly, a second segment could be termed a first segment, without departing from the scope of the present invention.

As used herein, the word “distal” means in a direction away from the hand of a user holding the injection device immediately prior to injecting a medicament (e.g., the end of the barrel from which the cannula extends is the distal end of the barrel) and “proximal” means toward the hand of a user holding the injection device immediately prior to injecting a medicament.

The following descriptions are directed towards various embodiments of a needle safety shield in accordance with the present invention.

Referring to the drawings in detail, where like numerals indicate like elements throughout, there is shown in FIGS. 1-7 a preferred embodiment of a low radial profile needle safety device, generally designated 10, and hereinafter referred to as the “safety device” 10 in accordance with the present invention. The safety device 10 is for use with an injection device 1, such as a pharmaceutical syringe. The injection device 1 may be a pre-filled; however, the present invention is not so limited. For example, the injection device 1 may be nearly any type of pharmaceutical syringe, including those to be filled by a patient or user, for example.

The injection device 1 preferably has a generally cylindrical barrel 2 having a distal end 2a and an opposing proximal end 2b. A cannula (or needle) 3 extends from the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and is in fluid communication with a bore of the barrel 2. The cannula 3 may be removably attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. Alternatively, and preferably, the cannula 3 is fixedly attached thereto. A removable shield 4 covers the cannula 3. Typically, the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 is configured as a tapered hub 5 that may have a variety of configurations, such as an inverted frustum, a cylinder or a sphere. Preferably, the hub 5 has a generally circular or bulbous shape that extends radially outwardly or beyond at least some other portion of the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. However, the hub 5 is not limited to the size, shape and/or configuration shown and described herein

Although the barrel 2 may be formed of nearly any material capable of safely enclosing medicaments, it is preferably formed of glass or a polymeric material. The injection device 1 may be pre-filled with a medicament or may be provided without a medicament for filling by the user.

A piston rod and piston (not shown) are slidably receivable in the bore of the barrel 2. The piston rod may have a free proximal end that extends from the proximal end of the barrel.

The safety device 10 comprises an outer tube 12 within which the barrel 2 is slideably receivable. The outer tube 12 has a distal end 12a, a proximal end 12b and a longitudinal axis A. A collar 14 is in the outer tube 12 and is movable relative thereto. In some embodiments, the collar 14 is fixedly attachable to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. In other embodiments, the collar 14 is rotatably attachable to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. A force member 16, such as a compressible coil spring, is provided between the outer tube 12 and the collar 14. The force member biases the outer tube 12 in a distal direction. A track S is formed in the inner surface 13 of the outer tube 12. A pin 18 extending radially outwardly from the collar 14 slidingly engages the track S which, in turn, guides the movement of the pin 18 and therefore the collar 14 within the outer tube 12.

Referring to FIG. 7, in a preferred embodiment, the collar 14 has the general shape of a hollow cylinder terminating at the distal end with an annulus 20 having a central bore 22 sized to receive and retain the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 or the hub 5 if the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 is configured as a hub. The annulus 20 is sufficiently compliant and sized to allow passage of the hub 5 through the bore 22 and then to rotatably engage the hub 5. The outer surface of the annulus 20 has a generally circular channel 24 to receive one end of the force member (e.g., a coil spring) 16. A circumferential step 26 (see, FIG. 3) in the inner surface 13 of the outer tube 12 is sized to receive and engage the distal end 14a of the force member 16. At least one pin 18 extends radially outwardly from the collar 14 and is slidably receivable in the track S. In embodiments in which the outer tube 12 has a plurality of tracks, the collar 14 may have a corresponding plurality of pins.

To mount the collar 14 to the barrel 2, the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 or the hub 5 may be inserted into and through the proximal end 14b of the collar 14 and into and through the distal end 14a of the collar 14. As the hub 5 passes through the distal end 14a of the collar 14, the bore 22 in the annulus 20 expands until the hub 5 passes completely therethrough. The annulus 20 then return to its initial state in which the distal end 14a of the collar 14 abuts the proximal surface 5b of the hub 5, thereby rotatably attaching the collar 14 on the barrel 2 between the hub 5 and a shoulder or enlarged portion of the distal end 2a of the barrel 2.

Referring to FIGS. 5 and 6, in some embodiments, the track S comprises three track segments. A first track segment S<sub>1</sub> is provided to allow the safety device 10 to be assembled and inspected after the collar 14 has been attachment to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 as discussed above. The first track segment S<sub>1</sub> extends from a staging position (i) shown in FIG. 15A having a first catch 32 to a pre-injection position (ii) shown in FIG. 15B having a second catch 34 and has as a profile an initial portion (a) substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis A of the outer tube 12 followed by a final portion (h) angled with respect to the longitudinal axis A and serving as a cammed surface. When the collar 14 is attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and the pin 18 is in the staging position (i), the proximal end 12b of the outer tube



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12 is in a position relative to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 allowing the barrel 2 to be inspected.

During the assembly process, the force element 16 is inserted in the outer tube 12. The collar 14, attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2, is then inserted in the outer tube 12 such that the pin 18 (or plurality of pins, if there is a plurality of tracks) is in the first track segment S<sub>1</sub> (or plurality of first track segments). The outer tube 12 is moved in the proximal direction causing an initial compression of the force element 16 as the pin 18 travels to the beginning of the first track segment S<sub>1</sub> and becomes releasably retained in the first catch 32 thereby securing the outer tube 12 in the staging position (i).

As the outer tube 12 moves in the proximal direction causing the force member 16 to be compressed, the pin 18 travels the initial portion of the first track segment S<sub>1</sub> and is guided to the pre-injection position (ii) by the cammed surface which imparts an angular rotation to the collar releasably securing the pin 18 in second catch 34. When the collar 14 is attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and the pin 18 is in the second catch 34, the cannula 3 extends a first length L<sub>1</sub> beyond the distal end of the outer tube 12. The length L<sub>1</sub> of cannula extension depends on the particular size and configuration of the insertion device 1. At a minimum the length of extension allows visualization of the distal most tip of the cannula 3 at an insertion location prior to penetration of the skin.

A second track segment S<sub>2</sub> contiguous with the first track segment S<sub>1</sub> extends from the pre-injection position (ii) to a full-insertion position (iii) shown in FIG. 15C. The second track segment S<sub>2</sub> is angled with respect to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube 12 and has an arcuate profile (c).

At the initiation of an injection, the distal end 12a of the outer tube 12 makes contact with the skin. The force applied by the skin to the outer tube 12 moves the pin 18 out of the first catch 32 and along beginning of the second track segment S<sub>2</sub>. As the skin is being penetrated by the cannula 3, continued application of force by the skin to the outer tube 12 further moves the outer tube 12 in the proximal direction and the pin 18 in the distal direction along the second track segment S<sub>2</sub> to the fully inserted position (iii). When the collar 14 is attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and the pin 18 is in the full-insertion position the cannula 3 extends a second length L<sub>2</sub> greater than the first length L<sub>1</sub> from the distal end 12a of the outer tube 12. The length L<sub>2</sub> of cannula extension at the full-insertion position (iii) depends on the particular size and configuration of the insertion device 1 and the subcutaneous location the medicament is to be delivered. The second track segment guides the pin 18 along a generally arcuate path imparting both axial translation and rotation to the collar 14. The outer tube 12 remains in the full-insertion position (iii) until withdrawal of the cannula 3 is initiated, typically after a full dose of the medicament is delivered.

A third track segment S<sub>3</sub> contiguous with the second track segment S<sub>2</sub> extends from the full-insertion position (iii) to a locked position (iv) shown in FIG. 15D having a third catch 36 in which the pin 18 is immovably retainable. The third track segment S<sub>3</sub> has an initial portion (d) extending from the full-insertion position (iii) substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube followed by an arcuate profile (e) providing a cammed surface terminating in an axially extending locked position (iv). As the cannula 3 is being withdrawn after the desired dose of medicament has been delivered, the force applied by the skin to the outer tube 12 decreases and the outer tube 12 moves in the distal direction relative to the collar 14 under the reactive force of the force

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member 16 compressed between the collar and the outer tube. The third track segment S<sub>3</sub> initially guides the pin 18 substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis and then along a generally arcuate path imparting both axial translation and a rotation to the collar and finally into the locked position (iv). When the collar 14 is attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and the pin 18 is immovably retained in the third catch 36, the outer tube 12 fully covers the cannula 3 in the entirety and is prevented from moving in either the proximal or distal directions.

Referring to the drawings in detail, where like numerals indicate like elements throughout, there is shown in FIGS. 8-14 another preferred embodiment of a low radial profile needle safety device, generally designated 100, and hereinafter referred to as the "safety device" 100 in accordance with the present invention. The safety device 100 is also for use with the injection device 1 disclosed above.

The safety device 100 comprises an outer tube 112 configured to slidably receive therein a portion of the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. At least one track S' is formed in the inner surface 113 of the outer tube 112. The at least one track S' has a plurality of contiguous segments further discussed below. In some embodiments, the inner surface 113 may have a plurality of tracks, each having the same configuration, positioned in a spaced-apart, aligned arrangement. A portion of the outer tube 112 has a generally U-shaped cut therethrough forming a flexible tongue 138 having a radially disposed ramp 140.

A collar 114 is slidably received in the outer tube 112. The collar 114 is attachable to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. At least one pin 118 extends radially outwardly from a sidewall of the collar 114 and is slidably received in the at least one track S' formed in the inner surface 113 of the outer tube 112. In embodiments in which the outer tube 112 may have a plurality of tracks S', the collar 114 may have a corresponding plurality of pins 118 projecting radially outwardly from spaced-apart locations around the circumference of the sidewall. A force member 116 extending between the outer tube 112 and the collar 114 biases the outer tube 112 in a distal direction. In some embodiments, opposed ends of the force member 116 may be received and retained in a circumferential channel 124 in the outer surface of the collar 114 and a circumferential step 126 in the inner surface 113 of the distal end 112a of the outer tube 112.

Referring to FIG. 14, in a preferred embodiment, the collar 114 is a body of revolution having a bore 122 therethrough and includes at least one and preferably four spaced-apart fingers 128 fixedly attachable to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. Each finger 128 is sufficiently compliant to allow passage of the hub 5 through the bore 122 of the collar 114 and then to return to an initial configuration. Each finger 128 preferable is configured to conform to the size and/or shape of a corresponding portion of the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. A gap or spacing 130 is preferably located between adjacent fingers 128, which allows for the collective expansion and contraction of the four fingers 128.

A channel formed in the distal end 128a of each finger 128 collectively forms a circular channel 124 in the outer surface of the collar 114 to receive one end of the force element 116. A circumferential step 126 (see, FIGS. 12 and 13) in the inner surface 113 of the outer tube 112 is sized to receive and engage the distal end of the force member 116. Diametrically opposed pins 118 extends radially outwardly from the collar 114 and are sized to slidably engage the at least one track S' formed in the inner surface 113 of the outer tube 112.

To mount the collar 114 to the barrel 2, the hub 5 may be inserted into and through the proximal end 114b of the collar



114 and into and through the distal end 114a of the collar 114. As the hub 5 passes through the distal end 114a of the collar 114, each of the fingers 128 may flex radially outwardly from the longitudinal axis A until the hub 5 passes completely therethrough. The fingers 128 then return to their initial state in which the distal end 128a of each finger 128 abuts the proximal surface 5b of the hub 5, thereby immovably attaching the collar 114 in place on the barrel 2 between the hub 5 and a shoulder or enlarged portion of the distal end 2a of the barrel 2. In some embodiments, the hub 5 may have a portion below the proximal surface 5b having ribs that extend into the gaps 130 between the fingers 128 further preventing rotation of the collar 114.

Referring to FIGS. 12 and 13, in a preferred embodiment, the track S' has a plurality of segments, each segment corresponding to a relative position of the outer tube 112 with respect to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and/or to the cannula 3 projecting from the hub 5.

A first track segment S<sub>1</sub>' is provided to allow the safety device 100 to be assembled and inspected after the collar 114 has been attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 as discussed above. The first track segment S<sub>1</sub>' extends from a staging position (i) having a catch 132 to a pre-injection position (ii) having a catch 134 and has as a profile an initial portion a' substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube followed by a circumferential portion b' terminating in the catch 134 in registry with the radially disposed ramp 140 on the flexible tongue 138 of the outer tube 112. When the collar 114 is attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and the pin 118 is in the staging position (i), the proximal end 112b of the outer tube 112 is in a position relative to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 allowing the barrel 2 to be inspected

During the assembly process, the force member 116 is inserted in the outer tube 112. The collar 118, attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2, is then inserted in the outer tube 112 such that the pins 118 are in the catch 132 at the staging position (i). The outer tube 112 is moved in the proximal direction causing the force member 116 to be compressed as the pins 118 travel the length of the initial portion a' of the first track segment S<sub>1</sub>'. The outer tube 112 is then rotated to move the pins 118 along the circumferential portion b' until the pins 118 become releasably retained in the catch 134 thereby securing the outer tube 112 in the pre-injection position (ii). When the collar 114 is attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and the pin 118 is in the second catch 134, the cannula 3 extends a first length L<sub>1</sub> beyond the distal end of the outer tube 112.

A second track segment S<sub>2</sub>', contiguous with the first track section S<sub>1</sub>', extends substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis A of the outer tube 112 from the pre-injection position (ii) to the full-insertion position (iii) of the outer tube. At the initiation of an injection, the distal end 112a of the outer tube 112 makes contact with the skin. The force applied by the skin to the outer tube 112 causes the flexible tongue 138 to deflect radially outwardly as the pin 118 moves out of the catch 132, up the radially disposed ramp 140 and along the second track segment S<sub>2</sub>'. As the skin is being penetrated by the cannula 3, continued application of force by the skin to the outer tube 112 further moves the outer tube 112 in the proximal direction and the pins 118 in the distal direction along the second track segment S<sub>2</sub>' to the full-insertion position (iii). When the collar 114 is attached to the distal end 2a of the barrel 2 and the pin 118 is in the full-insertion position (iii), the cannula 3 extends a second length L<sub>2</sub> greater than the first length L<sub>1</sub> from the distal end of the outer tube 112. The second track segment guides the pin 18

along a path substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube 112. The outer tube 112 remains in the full-insertion position (iii) until withdrawal of the cannula 3 is initiated, typically after a full dose of the medicament is delivered.

A third track segment S<sub>3</sub>', contiguous with the second track segment S<sub>2</sub>', has a profile having an initial portion c' extending from the fully inserted position (iii) substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis A of the outer tube 112 to a mid portion d' having a first extent d<sub>1</sub>' angled with respect to the longitudinal axis A followed by a second extent d<sub>2</sub>' parallel to the longitudinal axis A. The mid portion d' is followed by a final portion e' having an arcuate profile providing a cammed surface terminating in an axially extending locked position (iv).

After a full dose of the medicament has been delivered, and withdrawal of the cannula 3 is initiated, the force applied by the skin to the outer tube 112 decreases. Under the reactive force of the compressed force member 116, the outer tube 112 moves in the distal direction. The pins 118 move in the proximal direction along the third track segment S<sub>3</sub>' which guides the pins 118 in the initial portion c' substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis A imparting to the outer tube 112 translation in the axial direction without rotation. The first extent d<sub>1</sub>' of the mid portion d' cams the pins 118 in a direction angled with respect to the longitudinal axis A imparting to the outer tube 112 translation in the axial direction with rotation. The second extent d<sub>2</sub>' of the mid portion d' guides the pins 118 substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis A imparting to the outer tube 112 translation in the axial direction without rotation. The final portion e' of the third track segment S<sub>3</sub>' guides the pins 118 in a generally arcuate path imparting to the outer tube 112 both axial translation and a rotation until the pins 118 are in the locked position (iv) in the catch 136. In the locked position, the outer tube 112 is fully extended covering the cannula 3 in the entirety and is prevented from moving in the distal or proximal directions.

The foregoing detailed description of the invention has been disclosed with reference to specific embodiments. However, the disclosure is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that changes could be made to the embodiments described above without departing from the broad inventive concept thereof. Therefore, the disclosure is intended to cover modifications within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A needle safety device for an injection device having a generally cylindrical barrel with a distal end from which a cannula extends, the needle safety device comprising:
  - an outer tube within which the barrel is slideably receivable, the outer tube having a distal end, a proximal end spaced from the distal end of the outer tube and a longitudinal axis;
  - a collar positioned within the outer tube, moveable relative thereto and attachable to the distal end of the barrel;
  - a force member positioned within the outer tube biasing the outer tube in a distal direction;
  - a track formed in an inner surface of the outer tube; and
  - a pin extending radially outwardly from the collar slidably engaging the track,
 wherein the track comprises:
  - a first track segment extending from a staging position to a pre-injection position,



wherein the proximal end of the outer tube is in a position relative to the distal end of the barrel allowing the barrel to be inspected when the collar is attached to the distal end of the barrel and the pin is releaseably retained in the staging position by a first catch in the outer tube, and

wherein the cannula extends a first length beyond the distal end of the outer tube when the collar is attached to the distal end of the barrel and the pin is releaseably retained in the pre-injection position by a second catch in the outer tube;

a second track segment contiguous with the first track segment and extending from the pre-injection position to a full-insertion position,

wherein the cannula extends a second length greater than the first length from the distal end of the outer tube when the collar is attached to the distal end of the barrel and the pin is in the full-insertion position; and

a third track segment contiguous with the second track segment and extending from the full-insertion position to a locked position in which the pin is immovably retainable, a portion of the third track segment spaced from and parallel to a portion of the first track segment,

wherein the cannula is entirely within the outer tube when the collar is attached to the distal end of the barrel and the pin is immovably retained in the locked position by a third catch in the outer tube.

2. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the collar is a hollow cylinder terminating at a distal end with an annulus rotatably attachable to the distal end of the barrel.

3. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the first track segment has an initial portion substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube followed by a final portion angled with respect to the longitudinal axis.

4. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the second track segment is angled with respect to the

longitudinal axis of the outer tube, has an arcuate profile and imparts both axial translation and rotation to the collar.

5. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the third track segment has an initial portion substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube followed by an arcuate portion providing a cammed surface terminating in the third catch at the locked position.

6. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the collar is a hollow cylinder terminating at a distal end with a plurality of spaced-apart fingers fixedly attachable to the distal end of the barrel.

7. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the outer tube has a cut therethrough forming a flexible tongue having a radially disposed ramp.

8. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the outer tube has a cut therethrough forming a flexible tongue having a radially disposed ramp in registry with the second catch and the first track segment has an initial portion substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube followed by a circumferential portion terminating at the second catch.

9. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the second track segment is substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube.

10. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the third track segment has an initial portion substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the outer tube, followed by a mid-portion having a first extent angled with respect to the longitudinal axis and a second extent parallel to the longitudinal axis, followed by a final portion having an arcuate profile providing a cammed surface terminating in the third catch at the locked position.

11. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the outer tube moves only in axial translation without rotation when the cannula extends beyond the outer tube.

12. The needle safety device according to claim 1, wherein the force member is positioned within the outer tube between the collar and the distal end of the outer tube.

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